

CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Consumer Protection Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, **June 22, 2005**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Cameron Alden • Chairman

Legislator Jay Schneiderman • Vice•Chair

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Jon Cooper

ALSO PRESENT:

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Warren Greene • Aide to Legislator Alden

Charles Gardner • Director of Consumer Affairs

Alexandra Sullivan • Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office

Kevin Rooney • Oil Heat Institute

Ed Hogan • Aide to Legislator Nowick

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten • Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

(* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:04 P.M. *)

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Consumer Protection Committee Meeting. We'll start with a Pledge, and we'll ask Legislator Schneiderman to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thank you. I'd also just ask for one moment of silence, please. We have men and women who are risking their lives throughout the whole world. Some of them are actually giving up their life to protect our freedom and our American way of life. So I'll just ask for one moment of silence, please, in recognition.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

We don't have a huge agenda. I don't have any •• I don't have any cards or anybody that expressed an interest to address the Consumer Protection Committee. Charlie, any issues that we should be aware of? How are things looking? Come on up for just a second.

MR. HOGAN:

The Mets are sinking fast.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

The Mets are sinking fast. That's not good for some people and good for others. For those that are Yankee fans, I don't think there's a lot of interest.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

The main scope of our activities for the past couple of weeks now has been our continued operations with the Suffolk County Police Department apprehending unlicensed contractors. Just in the last two weeks, we have done a few more than 200 road stops, and approximately 50 arrests, field appearance tickets have been issued.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Charlie, I don't know what your procedure is, but I'm going to make a suggestion. Do you coordinate with the IRS or the New York State Income Tax Bureau or any of those agencies when you go in and pop some of these guys with these ••

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

No, we don't, because they go into the Criminal Court System, and the D.A. take it over from there, the A.D.A.'s, they work the case, whether they're going to bargain or plea or whatever.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I'm going to talk to the D.A.'s Office, but I think that that's some place •• it actually came up in another meeting today where people try to get around and skirt the laws by using 1099 employees rather than pay people as employees in a constructions trade. Then it was also brought up to our attention that there's a lot of cash that's being, you know, conveyed to the employees, which means that everybody in society that pays on a regular basis has to pick up the cost for those folks. So I'll bring it up then with the D.A.'s Office to see if we coordinate with that. Anything else we should be aware of?

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

No. I don't know if Mr. Rooney is here from the Oil Heat Institute, but I know you're usually interested in the ••

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Gasoline and oil.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Yeah. That's not looking good all the way into December or January.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

I saw •• I think gasoline went and set new highs on the Futures Market, the price of a barrel of oil has set a new high •• no, it almost at a new high.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

And going up on the Futures Market. So we're not really looking good for the year coming up.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

The Futures in January are higher than what they're trading at right now.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

All right. So that's something we're going to be monitoring then all the way through.

DIRECTOR GARDNER:

That's correct.

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Thanks, Charlie. Any questions for Charlie? Okay. Thanks a lot. The only thing we have on the agenda, then, is **1709, to establish a web page to inform Suffolk residents about parental controls of television programming viewing (ALDEN).**

Now, this is something that came from the last Consumer Protection Meeting where we had Cablevision come in and explain to us how they got a program to try to, you know, empower parents so they can limit some of the access to certain programming. This is •• this is the product that came out of that. And basically we're taking the information that we got from Cablevision, and I think at a later date we have some information coming in from some of the satellite providers, and we'll put it on the web page that already exists. It's not a page, it's a website that already exists to Suffolk County residents to try and access ••

LEG. LINDSAY:

Are you making a motion?

CHAIRMAN ALDEN:

Motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor? Opposed? 1709 is **approved. (VOTE:5•0•0•0)**

Any other business to come before the committee? Seeing and hearing none, we stand

adjourned. Thank you very much.

(* THE WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:08 P.M. *)